

Transactions of the Burgon Society

Volume 11

Article 1

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Burgon Society Officers; Burgon Society Events in 2011; Editor's Note; About the Authors

Stephen L. Wolgast

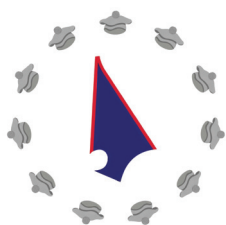
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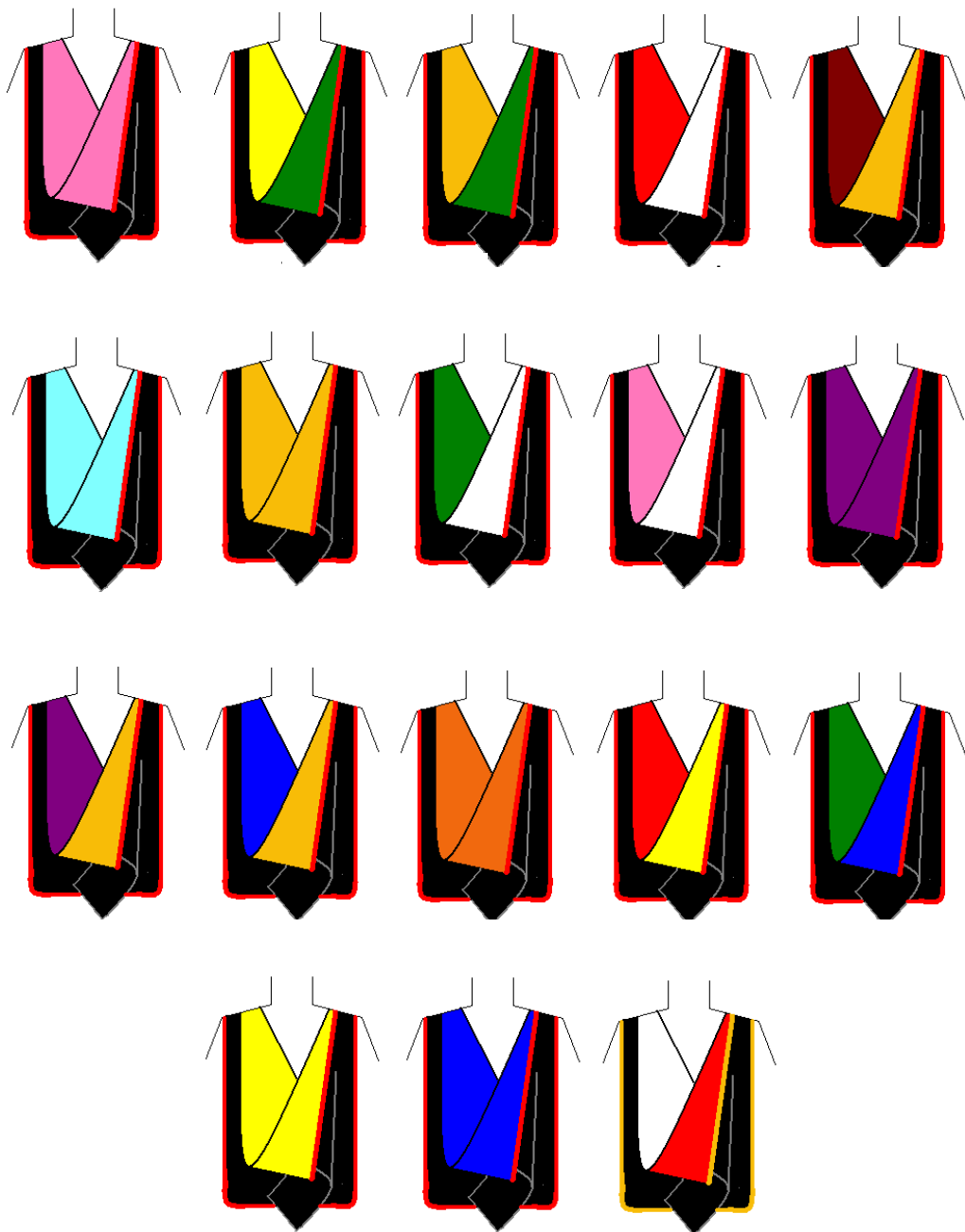
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TRANSACTIONS OF THE BURGON SOCIETY

Volume 11

2011



THE BURGON SOCIETY

Founded to promote the study of Academical Dress

Registered charity in England and Wales No. 1137522

**Information about the Burgon Society can be found
on its website at www.burgon.org.uk**

Transactions of the Burgon Society Volume 11 (for 2011)

Edited by Stephen L. Wolgast

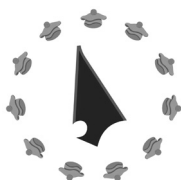
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Front cover: The hoods of the University of Malta. Nicholas Groves, a fellow of the Society, won the university's contest to design new academic dress for its graduates. Dr Groves created the chart of hoods and their colours, and tells the story of his commission beginning on page 91. A key to the hoods appears on pages 98 and 99.

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The Burgon Society

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(as at 1 August 2012)

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Burgon Society Events in 2011

7 May **Spring Conference**

OFFICES OF DELOITTE 2 New Street Square, London

Programme included:

Illustrated talks

Charles Rupert Tsua — *Gimp, Lace, and Braid: The Trimming of Academic Gowns*

Alex Kerr — *The Turbulent History of Undergraduate Academic Dress*

Nicholas Groves — *With Velvet Facings: More on the Original London Scheme*

Colin Fleming — *New Acquisitions in the Archive*

Kenneth Crawford — *Some Recent Commissions for Academic Robes*

16 July **Academic Dress on Monuments in Oxford**

A walking tour led by Alex Kerr visiting some of the college chapels and city churches that possess brasses and sculptural monuments illustrating academic dress. The itinerary included St John's College, New College, All Souls College, the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, and St Michael's Church.

8 October **AGM and Congregation**

CHARTERHOUSE London

Annual General Meeting

Display of academic robes from the Burgon Society Archive

Installation of Dr James Thomson as President of the Society

Admission to the Fellowship of the Burgon Society

Nicholas Hoffmann (by submission — *Crow's Feet in Cambridge: The Academic Dress of America's Oldest University*) *in absentia*

Br. Oliver Keenan (by submission — *How Can Academical Dress Survive in the Third Millennium?*) *in absentia*

Dr Alan Ross (by submission — *Togas gradui et facultati competentes: The Creation of New Doctoral Robes at Oxford 1895-1920*)

Kathryn Douglas (by submission — *Drawings for the Third Edition of 'Shaw's Academical Dress'*)

Charles Tsua (by submission — *A Study of the History and Use of Lace on Academical Gowns in the United Kingdom*)

Short talk

Nicholas Groves — An account of new prize-winning robes for the University of Malta designed by Dr Groves

Editor's Note

Writing this as the editor of the *Transactions* is an honour. Not only because I'm still fairly new to the Society, but also because I'm new to the subject. And being an American, I am still discovering that the history of cap and gown, as it's called where I live, is far deeper and broader than I ever expected.

Perhaps because academic dress has a short history in the United States I have a great interest in how it is used today. As a way to view its perceptions by those who don't share our passion, I am adding a feature to the *Transactions*. Primary Source is an essay that will bring to life a brief account of academic dress as it meets the world beyond the one in which we admire and seek to understand it. Kerstin Fröberg writes a lively and humorous inaugural piece, an ideal place to start.

You have probably noticed another change by now, one to the typeface. I hope you will find it easy on your eyes. It's called Miller, and was designed by Matthew Carter for legibility at small sizes. Fittingly, Carter has a professional connection to the academy. Another of his fonts is called Yale, which he created for the university based on a fifteenth-century Venetian typeface.

The real reason you are reading is not for the design but for the articles. As you turn the pages you'll find the story of Hull's academic dress, one that begins with Charles Franklin and includes his inimitable writing. We even find out his favourite hotel room when visiting Hull. Keep reading to learn the stories of Canterbury, Leicester and the steps by which one of our Fellows won a competition to design gowns for the University of Malta.

There's a housekeeping note, too. To tidy up footnotes, the *Transactions of the Burgon Society* is now cited as *TBS*.

Once you set down the journal you may notice something else: a special issue published at the same time as the one in your hands. Les Robarts' dissertation takes the form of a play that explores the meanings of academic dress in the modern world. In it he invents a university and creates a meeting of its instructors to decide if robes are still relevant. As the author, he takes all sides on the question in a post-modern analysis of our ancient fascination.

The work you're about to read had the assistance of the editorial board, whose hours of re-reading, proofing and liaising with authors simplified my life in portions equal to the complications added to theirs. The editors' behind-the-scenes guidance is an invisible presence on every page. I owe particular thanks to my predecessors, Nick Groves and Alex Kerr, who answered my questions on topics from medieval history to modern British idiom.

While the editors ensure the articles are readable and scholarly, it's the authors themselves who have done the most important work. Please enjoy their discoveries and insights and share your reactions with anyone on the Council.

Stephen Wolgast

Authors

Richard Baker, BA (Open), MA (East Anglia), PhD (Hull), FLCM, ACP, FBS, is now retired after a career as the director of music in a high school. At various times he has been a church organist and choirmaster and the director of a youth orchestra. His interest in academic dress started as a chorister, and progressed whilst at grammar school. He could not resist the opportunity to acquire one ‘of the most beautiful and dignified hoods in the world’—and then to submit a dissertation for the FBS based upon them.

Michael H. L. Brewer, MA (University of Kent), LTCL, DipTESOL, DipTEFL, FBIELT, FBS, is a Sessional Lecturer in the Faculties of Arts & Humanities and Business & IT, following many years’ service to The King’s School, Canterbury, teaching Music, English and History in the junior department. His research interest is in Phonology.

Clifford Dunkley, MA (Oxon.), FBS, was a member of the administrative staff at Leicester University from 1967 to 1999, latterly as Senior Assistant Registrar. Among other duties, he was responsible for the organisation of degree ceremonies both at Leicester and what is now the University of Northampton. In the later stages of his career, he was involved in the design of academic dress for emerging new degrees.

Nicholas Groves, MA, BMus, PhD(Wales), MA(E Ang), BA(Lond), FRHistS, FBS, is a foundation Fellow and Trustee of the Society, and editor-in-chief of the third edition of *Shaw’s Academical Dress of Great Britain and Ireland*. His particular interests in academic dress are the nineteenth century in England and Wales, and theological college hoods.

Leslie M. M. Robarts, BA, MPhil (Open), MEd (Exeter), PhD (Birmingham), CertEd (Nottingham), ACP, DipASE, *hon*MCollT, FCMI, FBS, is a retired high school headmaster. At the Open University he read literature and music, and he earned research degrees from the Open University and Birmingham University focussing on verbal and bibliographical aspects of words to three of Handel’s oratorios.

Stephen L. Wolgast, BA (Kansas State), MS (Columbia), FBS, is assistant professor of journalism and digital media at Kansas State University and is the director of the Collegian Media Group. He was co-editor of Volume 9 of the *Transactions* and was named editor in 2012, making this the first volume he has overseen.